

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3829

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

REF: STATE 107382

1. WE DISCUSSED JUDGE POLLACK'S CONCORDE DECISION (REF-TEL), WHICH RECEIVED WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE, WITH OWEN KEMMIS, DEPT. OF TRADE ACTION OFFICER ON CONCORDE. HIS REMARKS FOLLOW.

2. HE NOTED PARTIES ARE TO PROVIDE COMMENTS TO JUDGE WITHIN 10 DAYS AND FINAL ORDER THEN TO BE ISSUED. UK UNDERSTANDS THE PORT OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY AUTHORITY (PA) WILL CERTAINLY APPEAL DECISION. ALSO, THEY EXPECT THAT INJUNCTION WILL BE SOUGHT TO PREVENT OPERATIONS DURING APPEAL. ON THIS POINT, UK'S ATTORNEYS CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY INJUNCTION WILL BE ISSUED SINCE IT IS CONSIDERED IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE WOULD BE CAUSED BY START OF CONCORDE OPERATIONS WHILE APPEAL BEING CONSIDERED.

3. KEMMIS SAID THERE ARE SOME TECHNICAL ISSUES WHICH

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WILL NEED TO BE RESOLVED AT KENNEDY AIRPORT BEFORE FLIGHTS CAN BEGIN. PRIMARY PROBLEM IS ROUGHNESS OF RUNWAY AT INTERSECTION NEAR ROTATION POINT. TO DETERMINE IF CONCORDE LANDING GEAR WILL REQUIRE MODIFICATION BECAUSE OF ROUGH RUNWAY, ACTUAL TEST FLIGHTS WILL BE CONDUCTED TO TEST REACTION OF AIRCRAFT TO RUNWAY SURFACE. TIMING OF TEST FLIGHTS WILL HAVE TO BE AGREED WITH PA

AND, OF COURSE, FAA SOUND MONITORING EQUIPMENT WILL HAVE TO BE INSTALLED AT KENNEDY. BASED ON THESE CONSIDERATIONS, TESTS EXPECTED TO BEGIN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE.

4. IF TEST FLIGHTS PROVE NO MODIFICATION TO LANDING GEAR IS REQUIRED, REGULAR FLIGHTS COULD BEGIN BY DATE PROPOSED BY AIR FRANCE (JUNE 20). HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF UK, AIR FRANCE MAY HAVE JUMPED THE GUN WITH JUNE 20 DATE AS IT SEEMS UNDERCARRIAGE MODIFICATION MOST LIKELY WILL BE REQUIRED. IN THIS REGARD, KEMMIS TOLD US MODIFIED LANDING GEAR IS ALREADY BEING MANUFACTURED IN ANTICIPATION OF NEED AND EVEN IF IT MUST BE INSTALLED, REGULAR FLIGHTS COULD STILL BEGIN BY MID-JULY.

5. BRITISH AIRWAYS PLANS TO BEGIN SERVICE WITH TWO FLIGHTS PER WEEK (THESE WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM WASHINGTON ROUTE INITIALLY). BY LATE JULY THIS WOULD BE INCREASED TO THREE WEEKLY OPERATIONS AND BY OCTOBER TO DAILY SERVICE. WHEN THAT LEVEL REACHED, WASHINGTON FLIGHTS WOULD THEN BE RESTORED TO PRESENT (FOUR WEEKLY) LEVEL. AIR FRANCE, HOWEVER, IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN NEW YORK SERVICE WITH DAILY FLIGHTS.

6. KEMMIS AND HIS FRENCH COUNTERPARTS ARE TO GO TO WASHINGTON MAY 14 TO HAVE IN-HOUSE TALKS THERE DURING WEEK OF MAY 16 PREPARATORY TO GETTING TEST FLIGHTS STARTED. SPIERS

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